

THE CITIZEN

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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

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Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Happy Birthday, USA!

Special Section: Flag care & etiquette Pages 8 & 9



Hugh C. McBride

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Page 4

Soldier Show performs on Patch

The U.S. Army Soldier Show brings "Reveille: Answering the Call," a 90-minute musical extravaganza, to the Patch Barracks Fitness Center.



Page 5

Commands change in Stuttgart

Special Operations Command, Europe; Naval Special Warfare Unit Two and the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) all get new leaders.



Expressions of Independence

As Americans around the world celebrate their nation's 230th birthday, The Citizen takes a look at what some of the world's most noted thinkers have said about the elusive entities known as freedom and independence:

Where liberty dwells, there is my country.
- Benjamin Franklin

Those who won our independence believed liberty to be the secret of happiness and courage to be the secret of liberty. - Louis D. Brandeis

If our country is worth dying for in time of war let us resolve that it is truly worth living for in time of peace. - Hamilton Fish

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. - Declaration of Independence

We on this continent should never forget that men first crossed the Atlantic not to find soil for their ploughs but to secure liberty for their souls.
- Robert J. McCracken

Freedom is nothing but a chance to be better.
- Albert Camus

McKiernan: Stay safe when enjoying summer

By Gen. David M. McKiernan

What a great time to be in Europe! School is out and summer is in full swing. As we celebrate our country's independence on the Fourth of July and honor those who defend our freedom, let us make the most of this opportunity to take a well-deserved break and enjoy the warm weather.

Whether you will be traveling, enjoying water sports, or taking part in other activities, I ask that you do whatever it takes to ensure your safety and that of your loved ones.

Plan your activities, make a composite risk assessment of your plans, discuss your plans with your leaders, and take steps to minimize the risks. Make a commitment to watch out for and take care of one another.

I ask you to keep the following in mind:

- The World Cup Soccer tournament is underway and ... many cities in Germany will host huge parties during the tournament, especially if the German team is playing. Other countries taking part in the games may have similar festivities.

If you plan to take part, be sure to consider your safety and security and that of your family members and buddies. This is not the time to let down our guard.

Watch out for trouble between fans of opposing teams, do not allow yourself to become a victim of a crime, and be aware of the dangers associated with consuming too much alcohol.

- If you go swimming over the holiday, make sure the swimming area you use is authorized.

Each garrison has a list of authorized swimming areas to ensure the health and safety of swimmers.

Stay away from off-limit swimming areas, including rivers. Rivers are silent killers, and many have dangerous currents and submerged debris. Also be sure to swim with

Whether you will be traveling, enjoying water sports, or taking part in other activities, I ask that you do whatever it takes to ensure your safety and that of your loved ones.

someone else.

If you swim alone, you greatly decrease the possibility of getting help if you should need it. Two of our Soldiers have drowned in rivers, one last year and one the year before. Let us reverse that trend this year.

- Alcohol mixed with any activity increases the chances of tragedy. Alcohol reduces the ability to think clearly and react appropriately. This in turn increases the probability of serious injury while operating machinery, including vehicles and bicycles, and participating in sports.

Summer is the prime season for motorcycle riding. If you plan to ride over the long weekend, carefully consider the risks. So far this fiscal year, 34 Soldiers have died across the Army as a result of motorcycle accidents.

Riding responsibly and according to your skill level will prevent this death toll from climbing.

Let us remember that our goal continues to be No Loss of Life. We can reach this goal by "owning the edge" and taking care of one another.

McKiernan is the commander of U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army. The full original text of this message may be accessed online at www.hqusareur.army.mil.

THE CITIZEN

Col. Kenneth G. Juergens
U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander
Public Affairs Officer

Jennifer Sanders
jennifer.sanders@us.army.mil

Editor

Assistant Editor

Hugh C. McBride
hugh.mcbride@us.army.mil

Brandon Beach
brandon.a.beach@us.army.mil

Reporters

Sue Ferrare
susanne.ferrare@us.army.mil

Raquel Hicks

raquel.l.hicks@us.army.mil

Contact Information

Office Location: Building 3307-W, Kelley Barracks
U.S. Army Address: Unit 30401, APO AE 09107
German Address: Gebäude 3307-W, Kelley Barracks,
Pleningerstrasse, 70567 Stuttgart
Telephone: 421-2046/civ. 0711-729-2046
Fax: 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570

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www.stuttgart.army.mil



Antonio Brunetti

PHS teacher thanks AAFES for support of 'British Tea'

As has become traditional at Patch High School, Claire Dickmeyer's Advanced Placement English Literature class celebrated the approaching end of the school year with a "British Tea" celebration May 9 in the PHS annex.

Adorned in formal dress – and topped off with top hats and crowns – the students entered the classroom on a red carpet. Once there, they enjoyed cake, biscuits and – of course – tea.

The success of the event, Dickmeyer said, was the result of a partnership between PHS and AAFES, which provided refreshments for the tea.

"AAFES provided tremendous support for this event," Dickmeyer said. "[General Manager] Lee Muslin and [Administrative Assistant] Dave Preskitt have always been extremely supportive of our programs."

Hugh C. McBride

DoDDS-Europe names National Teacher of the Year nominees *Stuttgart educator among honorees*

Department of Defense Dependents Schools Europe District Release

The five DoDDS-Europe District Superintendent's Offices have announced the selection of their 2007 Teacher of the Year nominees. Among the honorees is Stefan Zappey of Patch Elementary School. The following five nominees will be among DoD educators from around the world who will be considered for selection as the representative of the Department of Defense Education Activity at the national level of the program:

Bavaria District

Mr. Stefan Zappey is a German immersion teacher for the early childhood grades at Patch Elementary School in Stuttgart, Germany. He joined DoDDS-E and the faculty at Patch in 2001.



Heidelberg District – Ms. Karen Van Balen teaches fourth grade at Patrick Henry Elementary School in Heidelberg, Germany. She began her DoDDS-E career at Würzburg Elementary School in 1970.



Kaiserslautern District – Ms. Jacqueline Gustaferrero is a literacy coach at Wetzel Elementary School, Baumholder, Germany. She has been a DoDDS-Europe teacher for 25 years and has been at Wetzel since 2002.



Isles District – Ms. Barbara Lee has been an educator for 30 years and has taught at Lakenheath High School, Lakenheath, United Kingdom, since 1993. She teaches algebra, geometry and math analysis.



Mediterranean District – Ms. Vicki L. O'Brien teaches physical education and health at the Livorno Unit School, Camp Darby, Italy. She has taught for DoDDS for 17 years.



The winners in the national competition will be invited to Washington, D.C., for the final round of selection and to meet senior educational and political leaders.

DoDDS-Europe participates in the National Teacher of the Year Program through an invitation extended to DoDEA by the Council of Chief State School Officers. It is underwritten with the assistance of corporate sponsors.

The mission of the National Teacher of the Year program is to recognize and honor contributions of the American classroom teacher and to focus attention on excellence in teaching. It is an opportunity for DoDDS-E to highlight the significant role its teachers play in the lives of students whose parents serve their nation overseas.

For more about the CCSSO and the National Teacher of the Year program visit www.ccsso.org/projects/national_teacher_of_the_year. For more about Patch Elementary School visit www.patch-es.eu.dodea.edu. For information about DoDDS-E visit <http://www.eu.dodea.edu>.

Kelley Youth Services temporarily closes due to housing renovation

Story by Brandon Beach

Following the start of the extensive housing renovation project on Kelley Barracks, Child and Youth Services announced that it had mothballed the Kelley YS facility as of June 16.

"The renovation has had a significant impact on our youth population there on Kelley," said CYS Coordinator Suzanne King. "There just aren't any kids left in the housing area."

The teen center will remain in a non-use status until the youth population on Kelley rebounds. King estimates that this resurgence could take place by early next year.

CYS has since accommodated the shuffle of area youth by offering a first-ever consolidated middle school camp at

The Hub on Patch Barracks which runs through Aug. 25.

"The camp is jamming," said King. "The kids are out and about, and they are moving."

So far, teens and counselors have taken excursions to places such as Europa Park for inverted thrills and Strasbourg, France, for a boat tour through the inner city canals.

Originally, the enrollment cap was set at 30 kids per week. CYS has since adjusted that figure to 36 due to the word-of-mouth buzz in the community.

Parents who are still interested in enrolling their kids in the camp must register with CYS. Cost is \$60 per week.

For more information call The Hub at 430-7204/civ. 0711-680-7204.

News & Notes

Swim lessons in Stuttgart

The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Child and Youth Services will offer summer swim lessons with certified instructors during July and August.

All CYS-registered children 18 months and above are eligible. The program offers six different levels ranging from beginning to advanced swimmers.

Cost is \$50 per child, and registration takes place in the CYS Central Registration Office.

For more information call 430-7483/civ. 0711-680-7483.

Wellness Center hours change

The Stuttgart Wellness Center will only be open Wednesday mornings based on the availability of volunteers.

All inquiries, including fitness assessment information, should be directed to the SWC director at 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073.

Community Bank hours change

All Stuttgart-area Community Banks will not open until 10 a.m. on Thursdays for employee training. This change will be in effect through Aug. 3.

For more information contact your local Community Bank branch.

Volunteer opportunities abound

• The **Stuttgart Girl Scout Neighborhood** is in need of volunteers to help with its summer day camp, tentatively scheduled for Aug. 21 to 25, with sleepover nights Aug. 23 and 24.

Military members may apply for permissive TDY status during the camp. The camp will have an outdoor skills theme and is in especially in need of lifeguards.

For more information contact Eric Warner, camp director, at 430-4927/civ. 0711-680-4927 or e-mail warnere@eucom.mil.

• Do you have the time and the desire to help service members and their families get the most out of their time in Europe? If so, the **Stuttgart USO** can use your help.

Call the USO at 430-5559/civ. 0711-680-5559 or visit office (Patch Barracks, building 2307) and pick up a volunteer application.

• For more information about volunteer opportunities in Stuttgart call Army Community Service at 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

USO golf tournament

The annual USO golf tournament will be July 15 at the Stuttgart golf course. The cost is \$70 for guests and \$45 for members and military ID cardholders.

There will be gift bags, food and beverages. The registration deadline is July 5.

For more information call the USO at 430-5559/civ. 0711-680-5559 or see the story on page 14.

Stuttgart German-American Chorus

The Stuttgart German-American Community Chorus meets Mondays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the Robinson Barracks Chapel Annex.

The group sings classical, pop, folk and more – and is a great way to meet new friends and share your vocal talents with the community.

For more information call Kathleen at 0711-469-0313.

Shape Up with Jazzercise

When you love your workout, results come easy. Jazzercise blends aerobics, yoga, Pilates, and kickboxing movements into fun dance routines set to fresh new music. All fitness levels are welcome.

• Kelley Fitness Center: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 6 p.m.

• Patch Fitness Center: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.

• Panzer Fitness Center: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. and Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

For more information call 430-5386 or 0711-120-2025, 07157-98-9527 or 07158-987-6196.

Leaving the military? Call us first!

Avoid separation anxiety. Call the Stuttgart Army Career Alumni Program at 431-2191/civ. 07031-15-2191 for your pre-separation briefing.

STUTTGART GERMAN-AMERICAN WANDERING CLUB 32ND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL VOLKSMARCH JULY 28-30

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED (FOR SETUP/CLEANUP, FOOD SERVICE, PARKING, SALES & MORE.)

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DSN 430-7460 / CIV 0711-680-7460 / RODEFFER2@YAHOO.COM



U.S. Army Soldier Show 2006 cast members perform a high-energy gospel medley near the end of the June 23 show in the Patch Barracks Fitness Center.

Reveille: Answering the Call Soldier Show entertains Stuttgart

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

The U.S. Army Soldier Show – the service’s premiere “by the Soldier, for the Soldier” entertainment extravaganza – visited Stuttgart’s Patch Barracks for 90 music-filled minutes June 23.

Headlined “Reveille: Answering the Call,” the 2006 version of the Soldier Show was designed to highlight “our Soldiers’ love of country, ‘always ready’ spirit and commitment to victory,” wrote Brig. Gen. Belinda Pinckney, commander of the Army’s Community and Family Support Center, which produced the show.

Featuring 17 Soldiers on stage – and supported by a number of Soldiers and civilians behind the scenes – the show adapted a number of current and classic hits, staging them in military-related scenarios that included the decision to enlist, the pressures of deploying and the pain of separation.

This human-interest angle resonated with many audience members.

“The show was absolutely outstanding,” said Imela Paschen-Griesinger, one of the German guests who were invited to attend the show with U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens and his wife, Gaby.

“I appreciated that they showed Soldiers in love, hurting, and longing,” Paschen-Griesinger said. “They are on a mission, they are on duty, but they are also human beings.”

During an onstage presentation at the end of the show, Juergens lauded the group for both their talents and their dedication. “These Soldiers give a year of their lives – they leave their families, their divisions and their garrisons – to bring their awesome talents to communities like ours all around the world. American Idol has nothing on them.”



[Clockwise from top right] 1. 1st Lt. Sony Moore of the Army National Guard performs “Here Comes the Sun” June 23 in the Patch Fitness Center. 2. Spc. Richard Sianoya, who placed second in the 2005 Military Idol competition while stationed in Giebelstadt, shows off his dance moves. 3. Members of Stuttgart’s Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers pass out cake after the show. BOSS members also served as ushers for the event and escorted distinguished guests to their seats. 4. USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Kenneth G. Juergens presents a certificate of appreciation to Sgt. 1st Class Robert Isom, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Soldier Show.

SOCEUR welcomes new commander

Story & photo by Jaime L. Wood
U.S. European Command Public Affairs

Gen. James L. Jones, Jr., commander of U.S. European Command, placed the Special Operations Command Europe flag – and responsibility for the organization – in the hands of Rear Adm. William H. McRaven during a June 26 ceremony on Patch Barracks.

McRaven replaced Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko, who has led SOCEUR since August 2003.

“Rear Admiral McRaven brings a wealth of national and special warfare experience to the table and is eminently qualified to take SOCEUR to new heights in mission success,” said Jones. “It’s a historic time for (him) to join us in this changing world and theater.”

McRaven’s appointment as the new SOCEUR leader marks the first time that the organization will be commanded by a Navy officer. SOCEUR is responsible for special operations conducted within the EUCOM area of operation, including 92 countries in Africa, Europe, and Eurasia.

Csrnko said his greatest challenge and success during his SOCEUR tenure was finding the common ground where conventional and unconventional military units could successfully complete shared missions.

“The goal was to take special operations forces and [com-

bine] them with U.S. European Command support of counter-terrorism efforts in the global war on terrorism,” Csrnko said.

“We bring unique capabilities in that our special operations forces can operate in some austere environments and help the host nation forces not only protect themselves, but work together across the board.”

Jones said a steadfast fury of exercises continue to refine the current special operations force standard. He urged the new commander to retain what works.

“These exercises are still relevant and very important; they give life to the NATO response force, which is an essential element; and they are a transformational cornerstone of NATO’s military future,” he said.

“I’m excited about the challenges that lay ahead – from expanding the special operations command role in Africa to building upon our great relationships with NATO’s special operations



Gen. James L. Jones, Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko and Rear Adm. William H. McRaven enter the Special Operations Command, Europe command change ceremony on Patch Barracks. McRaven officially replaced Csrnko at the SOCEUR helm during the June 26 ceremony.

forces and our many other allies,” McRaven said. “Special operations [service members] will be on the forefront of the war on terrorism and countless other difficult endeavors,” he said. “I can think of ... no better people to be there.”



Lt. Col. Francis Beaudette, the new commander of the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), accepts the unit colors from Special Operations Command Europe Commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Csrnko June 15 on Panzer Kaserne.

Beaudette takes helm of 1/10th SFG

Story & photo by Brandon Beach

Lt. Col. Francis Beaudette took over command of the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), during a June 15 ceremony on Panzer Kaserne’s parade grounds.

Beaudette replaced Lt. Col. Scott Eaddy, who will retire from the Army after 21 years of military service.

“This is a day that I know is bitter sweet,” said Maj. Gen. Thomas Csrnko, commander of Special Operations Command Europe, who presided over the event.

Eaddy received the Legion of Merit award during the ceremony for a military career that he said has taken him “to most places you only read about in National Geographic.”

In addition to its ongoing combat missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosova, the unit conducted security operations during the 2004 Summer Olympics in Ath-

ens, Greece, and the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy.

“Your actions have been Herculean,” he said of the Soldiers standing in formation before him. “You have risen to every challenge, no matter how difficult or in what austere location.”

Beaudette comes to Stuttgart from Washington D.C., where he served with the Deputy Directorate for Special Operations on the Joint Staff.

“He is no stranger to special operations,” said Csrnko. “He has an incredible list of credentials that make him well-versed to command this great battalion.”

Previously, Beaudette was a battalion executive officer and group operations officer with 10th SFG(A).

“Our nation’s war on terror continues, perhaps abated, yet more complex, challenging and difficult than ever,” he said. “Our vision must outpace the enemy.”



Capt. (Select) Stewart G. Elliott, the incoming commander of Naval Special Warfare Unit Two, enters the June 16 change-of-command ceremony on Panzer Kaserne.

Elliott replaces Lovett as leader of Naval Special Warfare Unit Two

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

Capt. (Select) Stewart G. Elliott replaced Capt. W. T. Lovett III as commander of Naval Special Warfare Unit Two during a June 16 change-of-command ceremony on Panzer Kaserne.

The ceremony was presided over by Commodore Perry F. Van Hooser, commander of Naval Special Warfare Group Two.

Lovett described his assignment with NSWU-2 as an opportunity “to work with the military’s best and brightest.”

The Sailors under his command, he noted, had provided superior service during multiple deployments and a high operations tempo. As a result, he said, NSWU-2 consists of “a very experienced force” capable of carrying out operations and training throughout Europe and Africa and in support of the global war on terrorism.

“There is no more important work today than what our service members are doing to protect our way of life,” he said.

“Capt. Lovett has done a great job ... [during a] period of unbelievably high op-tempo,” Van Hooser said. “His efforts resulted in a professional and efficient command.”

“There is no more important work today than what our service members are doing to protect our way of life.”

Capt. W. T. Lovett III
*Naval Special Warfare Unit Two
Outgoing Commander*

Turning his attention toward the incoming commander, Van Hooser said Elliott is “the perfect leader for this assignment.”

A graduate of the University of Colorado, National University and the Naval War College, Elliott brings more than two decades of special operations experience to his new position. His most recent assignment was a two-year stint at Fort Bragg, N.C., where he served as deputy chief of operations at the Joint Special Operations Command.

“I look forward to the many challenges we will face together over the next two years,” Elliott told the troops assembled at the June 16 ceremony.

AAFES set for Feb. '07 opening on Panzer

Shopping complex to consolidate, expand upon retail operations currently located on Patch

Story & photo by Hugh C. McBride

Consumers in the Stuttgart military community are a mere seven months away from 140,000 square feet of shopping paradise.

As construction continues on the new Army Air Force Exchange Service shopping mall on Panzer Kaserne, AAFES EUCOM Exchange General Manager Lee Muslin said the store is scheduled for a Feb. 7, 2007, grand opening.

"Our headquarters office recommends 120 days to stock and merchandise the facility and train personnel, but we're only utilizing 84 days," Muslin said. AAFES is set to take possession of the building in mid-November 2006.

Part of the Stuttgart military community's master plan to consolidate customer service and retail operations on Panzer Kaserne, the new mall will be located across the parking lot from the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Welcome Center. Muslin said the mall will bring a number of now-separate operations under one large roof.

"All the merchandise in the four buildings on Patch [Power Zone, Sports Store, Main PX and PXtra] will be under one roof for one-stop-shopping convenience," she said.

In addition to a consolidated shopping experience, the mall will also offer an enhanced selection of products and services. "If we put the four existing stores into the mall, they would only fill about half the building," Muslin said.

The additional space will allow AAFES to stock a wider range of goods, giving customers more options – and reflecting suggestions they have made over the years, Muslin said.

For example, she noted, the addition of Clinique and Shiseido products to the store's makeup selection is a direct result of customer feedback.

"Our customers have been asking for these products," she said, "and we're happy to announce that we'll be able to provide them [in the new mall]."

In addition to a wider selection of products currently offered in the Main PX, PXtra, PowerZone and Sports Store on Patch Barracks, the new mall will also feature the following:

- Beauty/Barber Shop
- "Simply Perfect" Nail Salon



Construction continues on the AAFES complex that is being built on Panzer Kaserne. The facility, which is set to open early next year, will bring a variety of retail and food service operations under one roof.

- Polish Pottery Shop
- Flower Shop
- Optical Shop
- New Car Sales
- Kathe Wohlfahrt
- China Shop
- TKS Service Center
- Carpet Shop

The mall's indoor food court will include the following outlets and features:

- Popeye's Chicken
- Pizza Hut
- Charley's Steakery

- German Bakery and Coffee Shop
- Children's playground

"This is going to be great for our community," Muslin said. According to the AAFES Web site (www.aafes.com), for more than 100 years AAFES's mission has been to support the men and women of the armed forces around the world.

AAFES operates more than 3,000 facilities in more than 30 countries, five U.S. territories and 49 states.

In the past 10 years, AAFES has contributed about \$2.4 billion to Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

For more about AAFES in Stuttgart and Garmisch call 421-2527/civ. 0711-729-2527.

'Help Our Troops Call Home'

Phone cards sold to support troops downrange

AAFES Release

One look at the data and it's easy to see that summer, particularly July 4th, is a time for Americans to celebrate how fortunate we are as a nation and enjoy numerous parades, picnics, fireworks and backyard barbecues.

According to the U.S. Census bureau, 150 million hot dogs are expected to be consumed on Independence Day alone.

While folks back home enjoy a person-to-frankfurter ratio of one dog for every two revelers, troops deployed halfway around the world and their families back home will be marking some significant milestones of their own:

- 122 – Iraq's average high temperature in July
- 5 – Average number of dust storms expected in Baghdad in July
- 70+ – Pounds of gear troops will typically carry on patrol in contingency locations

By logging onto www.aafes.com, any American can send a phone card designed specifically for the unique needs of deployed troops.

• 12 million - Expected number of minutes troops deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom will spend on the phone in July

"As any deployed servicemember can tell you, most locations where America's military are called to serve can hardly be described as 'garden spots,'" said the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton.

"In such austere and often harsh environments, something as simple as a phone call home has the ability, however briefly, to

transport troops from the war zone to a comfort zone," Eaton said.

Short of rain or an air conditioner, a Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone card is the one of the most commonly requested items in the contingency theater.

The toll-free number for those wishing to send tangible support to deployed Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors or Marines far from home is 800-527-2345.

By calling this number or logging on to www.aafes.org, any American can send a phone card designed specifically for the

unique needs of deployed troops.

The 550-unit card, for example, offers deployed servicemen and women the best value when calling back to the U.S. from Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait for as low as 19 cents per minute.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service's telecommunication support program, dubbed "Help Our Troops Call Home," makes it easy and affordable for anyone, even those without military affiliation, to leverage this exclusive calling platform on behalf of deployed American troops through 50 phone centers in Iraq, 14 in Kuwait and 3 in Afghanistan.

Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone cards sent through "Help Our Troops Call Home" can be earmarked for individual service members or distributed to "any service member."

For more about AAFES and "Help Our Troops Call Home" visit www.aafes.org or call (U.S.) 800-527-2345.

Awareness essential to staying safe

Proper preparation empowers travelers to spot the danger signs before crises occur

U.S. State Department
Bureau of Consular Affairs Release

Acts of terrorism are by design random and unpredictable, making it impossible to protect oneself absolutely. The best protection is to avoid travel to unsafe areas; however, personal awareness and vigilance are crucial to remaining safe or dealing with crises if they should arise.

Most terrorist attacks are the result of long and careful planning. Just as a car thief will first be attracted to an unlocked car with the key in the ignition, terrorists are looking for defenseless, easily accessible targets who follow predictable patterns. The following tips are excellent both when traveling abroad or when out and about closer to home.

Before you go

Let someone know what your travel plans are, and be sure to keep that person informed of any changes in your plans.

Make two photocopies of your passport identification page, airline tickets, driver's license and the credit cards that you plan to bring with you.

Leave one photocopy of this data with family or friends at home; pack the other separately from where you carry your valuables.

Pack an extra set of passport photos along with the photocopy of your passport information page to make replacement easier.

Instead of cash, bring travelers checks and one or two major credit cards.

Leave a copy of the serial numbers of your travelers' checks with a friend or relative at home. Carry your copy with you in a separate place and, as you cash the checks, cross them off the list.

Security through obscurity

To avoid being a target, dress conservatively and avoid the appearance of affluence.

Also, always try to travel light. You can move more quickly, will be more likely to have a free hand, and will also be less tired and less likely to set your luggage down.

On the road

Schedule direct flights if possible and avoid stops in high-risk airports or areas.

Try to minimize the time spent in the public area of an airport, which is a less protected area. Move quickly from the check-in counter to the secured areas. On arrival, leave the airport as soon as possible.

Keep an eye out for suspicious abandoned packages or briefcases. Report them to airport security or other authorities and leave the area promptly.

Be aware of what you discuss with strangers or what may be overheard by others, and avoid obvious terrorist targets such as clubs or attractions where Americans are known to congregate.

Remember: When you leave the United States, you are subject to the laws of any country you visit. Before you go, learn about the local laws and customs of your destinations and keep track of what is being reported in the media about recent developments in those countries.

For more information about travel safety call the USAG Stuttgart Security Office at 421-2133/civ. 0711-729-2133.

For general safety information call the USAG Stuttgart Safety Office at 421-2752/civ. 0711-729-2752.

Travel Safety Information Online

CIA World Factbook
www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

This site provides a comprehensive overview of the nations of the world (listed – conveniently enough – alphabetically from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe).

Data includes geography, economy, transportation, people and government.

Overseas Security Advisory Council
www.ds-osac.org

OSAC is a partnership designed to enhance cooperation between the U.S. Department of State, other government agencies and private organizations.

The site provides a wide range of information related to global security.

State Department Consular Affairs
www.travel.state.gov

This site includes a wealth of information for U.S. travelers heading abroad as well as for international citizens who wish to visit the United States.

Features include passport information and travel advisories.

White House Travel Handbook
www.whitehouse.gov/government/handbook/travel.html

Features for both domestic and international travelers include travel safety, student travel, country-specific handbooks and information on cultural exchange programs.

I steal purses in bars and restaurants.

I commit identity theft with copies of credit card receipts.

If only it were this simple ... Unfortunately, real criminals don't label themselves – or always look as menacing as they do in the movies. Staying safe when traveling – and, for that matter, when closer to home – requires a combination of common sense, continual vigilance and pre-departure preparation.



Flag code calls for etiquette, respect

What better time than Independence Day to take an in-depth look at the most prominent symbol of the United States?

The information in this section is intended to educate community members about the U.S. flag – and to help ensure that their patriotic passions are expressed in adher-

ence with the customs, courtesies, traditions and laws that have come to be associated with our star-spangled banner over the past two centuries.

Most guidelines for flag etiquette and gestures of respect are codified in the U.S. Flag Code, which was established by Congress in 1942.

The Pledge of Allegiance.

*I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America,
and to the republic for
which it stands.*

*One nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty
and justice for all.*

For more about the U.S. flag visit the National Flag Foundation Web site:
www.americanflags.org

Respect for the flag

(From the U.S. Code, Title 36, Chapter 10: Patriotic Customs)

- No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America.
- The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.
- The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free.
- Bunting of blue, white, and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

Displaying the flag

• Displaying the flag outdoors

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.

When it is displayed from the same flagpole with another flag – of a state, community, society or scout unit – the flag of the United States must always be at the top. The only exception to this rule is that the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for Navy personnel when conducted by a Naval chaplain on a ship at sea.

When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag's union should be farthest from the building.

When flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate flag poles which are of the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor – to its own right.

The other flags may be smaller but none may be larger.

No other flag ever should be placed above it. The flag of the United States is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered.

When flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation.

• Displaying the flag indoors

When on display, the flag is accorded the place of honor, always positioned to its own right. Place it to the right of the speaker or staging area or sanctuary. Other flags should be to the left.

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

When one flag is used with the flag of the United States of America and the staffs are crossed, the flag of the United States is placed on its own right with its staff in front of the other flag.

When displaying the flag against a wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union (stars) should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.

• Raising and lowering the flag

The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. Ordinarily it should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset. It should be illuminated if displayed at night.

The flag of the United States of America is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered.

The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is the longest.

• Parading and saluting the flag

When carried in a procession, the flag should be to the right of the marchers. When other flags are carried, the flag of the United States may be centered in front of the others or carried to their right.

When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute.



Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

The U.S. flag atop the White House flies at half-staff in honor of President Ronald Reagan. The U.S. Flag Code directs that the flag is to be flown at half staff in mourning for designated principal government leaders and upon presidential or gubernatorial order.

• The salute

To salute, all persons come to attention. Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute.

Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart.

Men with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over the heart.

Members of organizations in formation salute upon command of the person in charge.

• The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

The pledge of allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting. When the national anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note and hold the salute through the last note.

The salute is directed to the flag, if displayed. Otherwise it is directed toward the music.

• The flag in mourning

To place the flag at half staff, hoist it to the peak for an instant and lower it to a position half way between the top and bottom of the staff.

The flag is to be raised again to the peak for a moment before it is lowered. On Memorial Day the flag is displayed at half staff until noon and at full staff from noon to sunset.

The flag is to be flown at half staff in mourning for designated, principal government leaders and upon presidential or gubernatorial order.

When used to cover a casket, the flag should be placed with the union at the head and over the left shoulder. It should not be lowered into the grave.

Folding and disposing of the flag

Folding the flag

When not on display, the United States flag should be folded into a triangle, emblematic of the three-cornered hats worn by Colonial soldiers in the Revolutionary War.

It takes at least two people to fold a flag properly, as the flag should never touch the ground during any lowering or folding.

1. To begin the folding process, the flag should be held waist high, with its surface parallel to the ground. Fold the flag in half lengthwise, bringing the striped lower section over the canton (the blue field of stars).

2. Fold it again lengthwise, bringing the canton to the outside.

3. Start a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge up to meet the open edge. The outer point is then turned inward to form a second triangle. Continue folding the flag in this manner seven more times.

4. The last triangular fold brings the red and white stripes into the star-strewn blue field, symbolizing the day's light vanishing into the darkness of the night.

When the flag is completely folded, only the blue field and stars should be visible.

Tuck the remaining flap into the pocket formed between the stars and stripes.

Ceremony of Final Tribute

Only one flag, representing all those to be destroyed, should be used in the ceremony.

Two color guards should be used at evening retreat, one for the flag currently in use and a special color guard for the flag to be permanently retired.

Just before sunset, the flag which has been flying all day is retired in the normal ceremonial procedure for the group or site.

The color guard responsible for the flag receiving the final tribute moves front and center. The leader should present this color guard with the flag which has been selected for its final tribute and subsequent destruction. The leader then should instruct the color guard to "hoist the colors".

When the flag has been secured at the top of the pole, the leader should say the following:

"This flag has served its nation long and well. It has worn to a condition to which it should no longer be used to represent the nation. This flag represents all of the flags collected and being retired from service today. We honor them all as we salute one flag."

The leader then calls the group to attention, orders a salute, leads the entire group in the "Pledge of Allegiance," and orders the flag retired.

The flag is lowered, then respectfully folded in the customary triangle. The flag is delivered to the leader and then the group is dismissed.

Ceremonial Burning

The burning of a flag should take place at a campfire in a ceremony separate from the ceremony of final tribute.

The fire must be of appropriate size – preferably having burnt down to a bed of red hot coals to avoid having bits of the flag being carried off by a roaring fire, yet of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning.

Before the ceremony begins, the color guard assigned to the Flag opens up its tri-corner fold and then refolds it in a coffin-shaped rectangle.

When all is ready, all assemble around the fire. The leader calls the group to attention.

The color guard comes forward and places the flag on the fire. All briskly salute.

After the salute, but while still at attention, the leader should conduct a respectful educational program as the flag burns – for example, singing "God Bless America," offering an inspiring message of the flag's meaning followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance," or performing a reading about the flag.

When the flag is consumed, those assembled, with the exception of a leader and the color guard, should be dismissed. They should be led out in single file and in silence.

The leader and color guard should remain to ensure that the flag is completely consumed, and to burn any additional flags.



Hugh C. McBride

Ambassador returns to Garmisch's Marshall Center

Lecture highlights her diplomatic work during Cold War

Story & photos by Sue Ferrare

Ambassador Mary Ann Peters' relationship with the Marshall Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen began almost 21 years ago, before she was an ambassador and before it was the Marshall Center.

She came to what was then the U.S. Army Russian Institute to brush up on her Russian before being posted to Moscow as Economic Counselor. She studied the language for 10 months alongside U.S. Army officers training to counter the Soviet Union before going on to her new post.

Peters describes her time in Moscow as one of the high points of her career, and an interesting background to her future interactions at the Marshall Center.

"I was working in the economic section, as head of it for part of the time, and we were trying to figure out if there was anything to Gorbachev's policy of perestroika, restructuring, and that was professionally fascinating."

"During the Cold War for a diplomat, Moscow was the place to be. Professionally, we were engaged in an existential struggle with a bad guy, which is always challenging," she said.

Peters renewed her relationship with the Marshall Center in August 2003 when she was assigned to be the Center's Associate Director for International Liaison.

The contrast between the two times has given her a greater appreciation for her role and for the Marshall Center mission to promote good working relationships with countries that fell under the Soviet influence.

"I like the positive irony of the fact that now, instead of preparing to defeat people on the other side of what was then the Iron Curtain, we're working together in this broader region," she said.

Peters is the fourth ambassador to be on the Marshall Center team since the Center's dedication in 1993, though the ambassador's role has changed as the needs of the Center have changed.

Peters worked as Deputy Chief of Mission



Mary Ann Peters, an ambassador at Garmisch's Marshall Center, speaks at a June 27 conference.

in Sofia, Bulgaria for the first ambassador assigned to the Center, Ambassador Ken Hill.

"He spent a lot of time selling the Marshall Center to people in Eastern Europe and explaining why they should release officers to come here. That's no longer necessary in places like Bulgaria, Romania, and Poland, places where Ken was essentially going to sell this new start-up in the early 90s," she said.

"Now the Marshall Center is well-known as a great place for national security professionals to enhance their knowledge."

Peters began her career with the State Department in 1975 and has been posted to Germany, Burma, Canada, Bangladesh and Washington, D.C. in addition to Bulgaria and Russia.

She uses her extensive experience and her rolodex to advise Marshall Center personnel who plan courses and conferences.

"I know the State Department quite well. I know who does what, so for instance, if we're

'We give our participants a kind of coherent worldview that I think will serve them well.'

Mary Anne Peters
Marshall Center Ambassador

seeking to increase cooperation or collaboration on transnational crime issues, I know who we should be talking to.

"I also stay in touch with some of the embassies and try to intervene if we have policy issues," she said.

From diplomacy to teaching

Peters devotes a significant amount of effort to her role as a professor. She gives lectures for the Center's three resident courses, which range in length from one to 12 weeks, and leads small discussion groups.

She sees her wide-ranging background as vital to teaching the civilian government officials, military officers and academics who attend the Center's courses to learn how national security is developed and maintained in democratic states.

"The last couple of years U.S. policy has focused even more on the battle of ideas, what is sometimes called countering ideological support for terrorism. That's something I did a lot of work on in Bangladesh, meeting with imams and others. My colleagues at the Marshall Center have developed some cutting-edge expertise on this," she said.

Peters says that occasionally she misses the more traditional Foreign Service role, being part of the State Department in Washington, D.C. or part of an embassy. However, she said that after serving as ambassador in Bangladesh when America was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001 and during the beginnings of the campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq, she

is glad she does not have to stay up at night worrying about the security of American citizens and facilities.

She also values the opportunity to step back from the frantic pace of work that is typical of embassies.

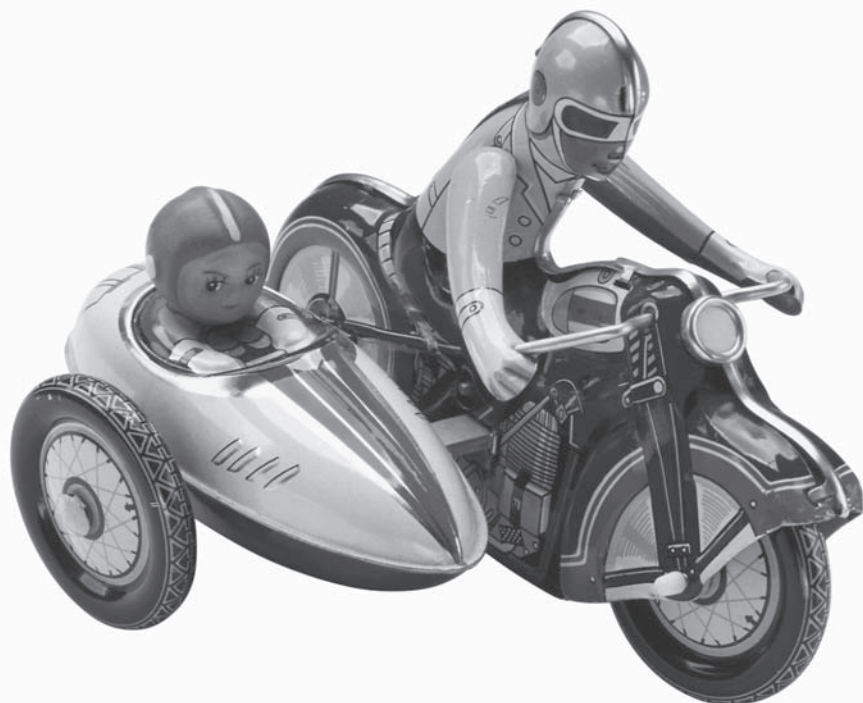
"This [position at the Marshall Center] gives a diplomat who has been busy a chance to take a fresh look at developments on the ground and to rethink some of the issues."

"For example, human trafficking is a big problem in south Asia. In fact, Europe, where the trafficking generally goes from east to west, and south Asia, where girls from Nepal and Bangladesh are generally trafficked to India, are two major nodes of trafficking in the world. I was involved in U.S. policy on trafficking in Bangladesh, but coming to the Marshall Center has allowed me to look at it on a more global basis," she said.

Peters says that sharing that kind of knowledge and insight with her students is the most fulfilling part of her position.

"For me it is the teaching that is special. Many of the students are enthusiastic, they're smart, their countries have come a long way and yet still have some way to go. And many of the students come here with the view that they want to be part of the solution. If we can give them a few tools to help them do that, then it's very rewarding. It's a very enriching experience to send someone home who's bright and dedicated and who now has background and resources to back enlightened security policies. We give our participants a kind of a coherent worldview that I think will serve them well."

Motorcycle Safety Training in Garmisch



Motorcycle Safety Foundation Experienced Riders Course

Class will be held three more times
on post in Garmisch:
July 14 – August 10 – September 15

*Anyone applying for a USAREUR motorcycle driver's license
must provide proof of course completion.*

*For more information or to register for a class
call 440-3676/civ. 08821-750-3676
or visit the Garmisch MP station.*

(For more about motorcycle safety see page 14).

Be a part of something amazing



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mark.barbary@us.army.mil



Don't be a fool: Know your rights and responsibilities when buying a used car.

www.photos.com

Stay smart, safe when shopping for used car

Stuttgart Law Center Release

Many of us are familiar with the various protections for consumers who buy cars in the United States. From lemon laws to consumer protection laws, people who purchase cars in America are protected in many circumstances if something goes wrong or their automobile has problems.

In Germany, there are also consumer protection laws, but they are different from those we are used to in the United States.

There are different laws that apply to different types of car sellers, and it makes a big difference if you buy a car from a company or from a private person.

A private seller can sell a car "as is" (if this is included in the written contract or the seller has a witness for this fact). On the other hand, a company cannot operate in this way.

In Germany, a car that is bought from a private person should be in the mechanical condition that corresponds to the age and mileage of that car. So if you are interested in an older car with higher miles, that car is expected to be in worse mechanical condition than a newer car with fewer miles.

But no matter what the age or mileage, the car still must be in the normal operating condition for a car of that make, year, and mileage.

That means that when a private person buys a car from another private person, he or she is not protected if the car has problems that are not immediately detectable or require extensive and costly repairs.

Although there are protections for consumers, enforcing your rights in German courts can be costly.

There are many steps you can take to protect yourself. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission, offers some helpful tips regarding buying a used car that are also very useful in Germany.

Whether you buy a used car from a dealer, a co-worker, or a neighbor, follow these tips to learn as much as you can about the car:

- Examine the car yourself using an inspection checklist. You can find a checklist in many of the magazine articles, books and Internet sites that deal with buying a used car.
- Test drive the car under varied road conditions – on hills, highways, and in stop-and-go traffic.
- Ask for the car's maintenance and inspection record. If the owner does not have copies, contact the dealership or repair shop where most of the work was done. Also be sure to get the car's manual.
- Ask if the car was ever involved in an accident before and get that answer in writing.
- Talk to the previous owner.
- Have the car inspected by a mechanic.
- Make sure you get all sets of all the keys from the owner.
- Do not pay for the car without getting the title to it at the same time.

Perhaps the most important step you can take to protect yourself from any potential problems when buying a used car is to get a contract in writing. The Stuttgart Law Center has a form contract on hand for use.

If this does not meet your needs, an attorney can draft a contract that is acceptable to both the seller and the buyer. Speak to an attorney about drafting a contract to govern how the transaction will take place – and what rights and responsibilities each party has to the other.

If you are a member of ADAC, the German automobile club, you can get a form for purchasing a used car there for free. Some car insurers have this form available as well.

For more information call the Stuttgart Law Center at 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.

Online system speeds travel process for EUCOM personnel

By Jaime L. Wood

U.S. European Command Public Affairs Office

The government travel process is getting a lot easier for U.S. European Command service members and civilians. This month, EUCOM is implementing the Defense Travel System (DTS), an automated, web-based travel procurement system.

First envisioned a decade ago, the travel system automates authorizations, reservations, voucher processing, payment and archiving for defense department travel transactions.

"DTS provides a secure, end-to-end, online, electronic financial management system that automates the government business travel process," said Stacy Sanders, EUCOM DTS program manager. "It leverages commercial travel management products, speeds up travel processing, reduces costs, incorporates secure network access and digital signature."

DTS requires the user's common access card and PIN, which will soon be the mandatory secure method for users to log on to defense department unclassified local area network. "The timing is perfect to implement DTS now, because both systems – the Defense Travel System and the common access card log in – are currently being implemented in EUCOM," said Sanders.

The new travel system meets operational requirements for a single, paperless temporary travel system that is available to users 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Travelers can use the online system to choose nearly every detail of their trip from flights, to seating, to menu choices.

"DTS streamlines the entire travel process," said Kenny Shaw, EUCOM lead defense travel administrator. "Now when a user creates their travel order it's all electronic. After the designated approver – normally, the traveler's supervisor – approves the travel request online, ticketing will happen, and the user can print out an actual 1610 travel form. DTS eliminates carrying documents around base, which is the traditional way of preparing for government travel."

Travelers build the shell of their travel voucher when they create the travel request online. Travel receipts can be scanned and electronically filed into the system as they are incurred by travelers. Upon returning from travel, users are able to modify the electronic information to reflect changes.

Whether a user is back from travel and needs to do a settlement, or is still on their temporary duty assignment, the DTS process can be done from any internet connection that has a common access card reader.

Leaving tomorrow? Shaw says that is no problem. "Just call Sato Travel to book airfare reservations and enter the cost into DTS."

"The difference between this travel system and another online travel system is that the Defense Travel System is linked to the financials,"

said Shaw. "When the traveler's request is approved, the obligation is created. Travel dispersals are instantly recorded in the system. In addition, the travel costs are immediately deducted from the approving agent's budget, so an accurate real time account of available funding is just a click of a mouse away. Once the approving official approves the settlement, it will be dispersed to the traveler's account within three days. Excess funds are returned to the budget and are available for future government travel."

DTS mandates split disbursements to the user's government travel credit card and personal account. The traveler can also program the system to disperse partial payments, for temporary duty assignments exceeding 45 days, to their government travel credit card and bank account.

DTS is scheduled for implementation at approximately 11,000 military locations by the end of this fiscal year. At that time, it will support over 90 percent of all Defense Dept. business travel including more than 3.2 million military and civilians who make approximately 5.6 million trips each year.

"The online system reduces over half of the steps traditionally required for government travel and reimbursement," concluded Sanders. "DTS just makes the travel process a lot more convenient for everybody involved."

Single Parent Support Group Forming in Stuttgart

No spouse? Spouse deployed? Military or civilian? Then we mean YOU!



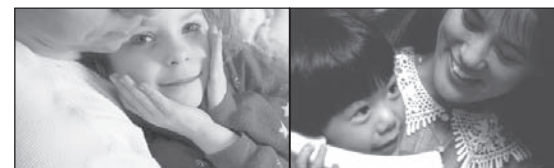
For more information

Ellie Benavides

430-7076/civ. 0711-680-7076; ellie.benavides@us.army.mil

Tech Sgt. Carrie L. Davis

430-4154/civ. 0711-680-4154; davisc@eucom.mil



Young wrestlers attend weeklong 'Camp of Champions' on Patch Barracks

Story & photos by Raquel Hicks

Patch High School hosted a wrestling "Camp of Champions" June 18 to 23 for young wrestlers throughout Europe. The event, put together by Camp Director Duane Werner, offered Youth Services, middle school, and high school-level wrestlers the opportunity to train with, and learn from some of the world's top wrestlers and coaches.

This was the fourth time the camp had been offered in Germany, and the first time it was opened to YS and middle school wrestlers.

Sessions included cardio and technique training, demonstrations by the coaches and live wrestling. Tuesday's favorite sessions were the high amplitude Greco-Roman and freestyle moves demonstrated by Dariusz Jablonski and Emil Kostec.

"I am very happy to be here with these American kids," Jablonski said. "It is wonderful and they are working so hard, I can see them get better in a short amount of time."

During the evening demonstration session, Jablonski told the 78 young wrestlers, "If I had in Poland a group like we have here, Poland would have many, many medals. You are very good but remember you must practice, practice, practice."

Jim Zeigler of North West College was hoping to help the wrestlers establish a good foundation and to understand the seven basic skills of wrestling. While training during one of Zeigler's sessions Sasha Chavez, a three-year high school wrestler from Kaiserslautern, stated that "I think they're [the coaches] are amazing, we're learning new stuff".

The caliber of coaches wasn't lost on the younger wrestlers either. Kiel Hicks, 12, a four-year wrestler for the Stuttgart Sabercats, said a technique he learned was "super cool, I didn't know you could do that and I like it, I'm gonna use it".

McKenna Fields, 8, also a veteran Sabercat, said, "This is good, this is really fun."



Baumholder wrestler Ethan Montag (left) takes to the mat with Kiel Hicks of Stuttgart.

Learning from the best

True to its name, the Camp of Champions featured a number of successful wrestlers and coaches:

- North West College Coach Jim Zeigler, the 2004 NJCAA National Coach of the Year
- Dariusz Jablonski of Poland, the 2003 Greco-Roman World Champion
- Emil Kostec, coach of the Polish National Team
- Lorenzo Peterson, a U.S. Forces Greco-Roman Champion
- Jay Fields, a US Forces Freestyle Champion
- Jim Hall, coach for Naples High School and the 2005 DoDDS European Champions.



Guest coaches Dariusz Jablonski (top) and Emil Kostec demonstrate a freestyle carry move during the wrestling camp on Patch Barracks June 18-23.

Stuttgart squads place 2nd, 3rd at IMA-E tourney

By Alison Petersen

After an undefeated regular season, the Stuttgart Lady Stallions took runners-up honors at the 2006 Installation Management Agency Europe Region Community Level Volleyball tournament in Vicenza, Italy.

In the Italian heat, the top four teams from the Northern region faced off against the top four teams from the Southern region (with Stuttgart the top team from the South) in a two-day round robin tournament to determine seeding for the two-day championship tournament.

After beating Schweinfurt in three games in the double-elimination championship round, Stuttgart was knocked into the loser's bracket by Kaiserslautern in a hard-fought four-game battle.

Fighting to climb from the losers' bracket, the Stuttgart women took care of Vicenza in three games, and then took the court against Heidelberg. Stuttgart dropped the first game to Heidelberg, but came back to win the match in five close games to set up a rematch against Kaiserslautern.

With Hanau waiting in the wings, the Stuttgart women once again took the court against Kaiserslautern. Both teams gave it everything they had, trading tough points back and forth. Stuttgart, however, dropped the first two games 14-16 and 13-15 and found themselves needing to win three games in a row or pack it up and go home.

With their backs against the wall, the Stuttgart women dug deep and did the seemingly impossible, winning the next three in a row against Kaiserslautern 18-16, 15-12, 15-11 to earn a spot in the championship match.

En route to the championship game, the Stuttgart women played 31 games. Hanau ripped through most of their opponents in straight sets, needing only 18 games to reach the finals. In the end, the combination of Hanau's fresher legs and explosive hitters propelled them to victory in the final game. The Stuttgart Lady Stallions finished the season as the 2006 Army Europe Community Level Volleyball runners up.

The Stuttgart Community Level men's volleyball team also had a successful run at the championships in Italy.

Seeded first after round robin play, the men overpowered Vicenza 15-7, 15-12, 15-9 in the first game of the championship tournament. Next came a tough loss to Heidelberg, sending the Stuttgart men to the losers' bracket.

After a fiercely played five-game loss to eventual champions Schweinfurt, the Stuttgart men took home the third-place trophy.



Tennis, anyone?

Members of the Stuttgart military community had the chance to get their backhands straightened out in time for the summer season with two free weeklong tennis clinics on Patch Barracks.

Under the direction of Ricky Payton of the Patch Fitness Center, groups of youth (in week one) and adults (week 2) brushed up on their techniques, learned some new skills and ran through a number of drills.

[Top & bottom] Clinic students work on their skills June 20 on Patch Barracks.

[Far right] Instructor Eric Latson goes up high to return a volley.

For more information about sports opportunities in Stuttgart call 430-4512/civ. 0711-680-4512



photos by Hugh C. McBride



The Stuttgart USO's July 15 golf tournament is the organization's primary fundraiser – with proceeds dedicated to activities that enhance German-American relations. Held annually on the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim, the tournament features an afternoon of golf, free food and drink, and the chance to walk away with a number of lucrative prizes.

Annual golf tournament helps USO fund German-American activities

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

A morning on the golf course; free burgers, dogs and drinks (courtesy of the Stuttgart Hofbrauhaus); and the opportunity to walk away with prizes ranging from a Montblanc pen to a Polaris all-terrain vehicle.

Who ever said contributing to a fundraiser had to be difficult?

The Stuttgart USO's biggest annual fundraiser is scheduled for the Stuttgart Golf Course in Kornwestheim July 15. While allowing community members to enjoy the benefits enumerated above, the \$45 entry fee also helps the USO to fund a wide range of German-American activities.

"The funds raised from this event are used for activities that help develop German-American relations, such as the tours of the city of Stuttgart," said Jeff Hiatt, director of the Stuttgart USO.

In addition to helping build bridges between Stuttgart's German and U.S. military populations, the USO also offers a wealth of resources for individuals who want to explore Europe, Hiatt said.

"We are here to help," he said. "If anyone has any questions about travel in Europe, we encourage them to call us or stop by our office [on the first floor of Patch Barracks's building 2307]."

With a steady schedule of tours [see box at right for a sampling of upcoming outings] and a number of other services – including a lending library of more than 500 DVDs, two Internet-accessible computers and occasional German cooking classes – the local USO sponsors a variety of ways for individuals to make the most of their leisure time abroad.

Part of a network of more than 120 service centers around the world, the Stuttgart USO can trace its history to a 1941 directive by then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

For more information visit the USO office on Patch Barracks building 2307 (Washington Center), call 430-5559/civ. 0711-680-5559 or visit www.uso.org/stuttgart.

This comprehensive Web site contains the latest USO information including tour information, upcoming events and helpful links.



Whether taking the S-Bahn to downtown Stuttgart or floating down the Tiber River in Rome (above), the USO can help community members get the best out of their travel experiences in Europe.

***We are here to help.
If anyone has any questions
about travel in Europe, we
encourage them to call us or
stop by our office.***

**Jeff Hiatt
Stuttgart USO**

On the Go with USO

There's always something going on with the USO. The following is a two-week glimpse at just a few of the many adventures and opportunities that are just a phone call (or a mouse click) away:

• **Paris Express (July 7 to 9)** – Bring euros and travel documents. Cost is \$105 for adults and \$100 for children. Tour cost includes transportation, tour and USO escort.

• **Kaltenberg Knights' Tournament & Medieval Festival (July 8)** – Bring euros and cameras; this is one you won't want to miss. Cost is \$97 for adults, \$87 for children.

• **Heidelberg Castle Illumination (July 8)** – Cost is \$69 for adults, \$64 for children.

• **Atlantis Water Park (July 9)** – Bring Euros for lunch and extras (Sauna and massages not included) Tour price includes transportation, entrance fee and USO escort. Cost: adults, \$67; children \$57.

• **Zurich, Switzerland (July 12)** – On our way to Zurich, we will stop at the Rhinefall – the famous waterfall in Schaffhausen. Bring valid U.S. passport, Euros and Swiss Francs for this trip. Tour price includes transportation, guided city tour and USO escort. Cost is \$69 for adults, \$64 for children.

• **Meersburg & Mainau (July 13)** – Bring euros for lunch, additional entrance fees and souvenirs. Price includes transportation, entrance to Mainau, ferry cost, castle, and USO escort. Cost is \$99 for adults, \$94 for children.

• **Dinner Club Brazilian Barbecue (July 14)** – Tour price includes transportation, buffet dinner and USO escort. Cost is \$68 per person.

• **Legoland Park Tour (July 15)** – Tour price includes transportation, entrance fee and USO escort. Cost is \$88 for adults, \$83 for children.

• **The USO Early Bird Special** – Sign up for the tour of your choice up to 5 days prior to tour departure and get a \$5.00 discount for each person traveling with you.

This offer is valid on USO tours only; it is not valid for Interrail-Reisen tours.

For more information visit www.uso.org/stuttgart, stop by the Stuttgart USO office on Patch Barracks (building 2307) or call the 430-5559/civ. 0711-680-5559.



Residents of Hamburg truck down fresh fish from these waters on the Elbe River during the annual *Hamburger Fischmarkt* July 20-30 in Stuttgart Karlsplatz. Stuttgart sends its Wine Village in a decades-old tradition of friendly festival exchange.

Hamburg's fish market, a big catch in Stuttgart

Story & photos by Brandon Beach

Every year, fish from the Elbe River manage to find their way south to Stuttgart.

They don't swim downstream though; instead, they take Autobahn 7 via ice-packed trucks to be the guest of honor at the annual *Hamburger Fischmarkt* July 20 to 30.

For decades, Hamburg and Stuttgart have swapped festivals each summer, with southern wine makers trekking north to set up the *Weindorf* (Wine Village) for harbor city residents.

While Stuttgart ages wine, Hamburg chucks fish, which the city has been doing every Sunday since 1703, starting just before sun up at 5 a.m. in the famous century-old Fish Auction Hall.

But don't expect such an early morning nose-full of cod in Stuttgart.

The market opens daily at 11 a.m. and closes up by 11 p.m.

The festival grounds are centrally located at *Karlsplatz*, minutes by foot from the *Königsstraße*, Stuttgart's downtown pedestrian shopping strip.

Besides the numerous varieties of fish on display, the rowdy auctioneers will steal the show during the 11-day festival. These humorous stage hawkers will cajole, flirt and tease passersby in an attempt to sell their raw goods. They are also multilingual, so don't be shy.

If a taste of the sea makes you do an about-face, then enjoy a local Hamburg brew such as *Ratsherrn* (pils) or *Dubelsbrucker* (dark).

Both beers are drunk in vast quantities each night in the bars that dot the *Reeperbahn*, one of the most famous red-light districts in the world.

In Stuttgart, throngs of young marketgoers converge at the steps of the

Emperor Wilhelm I statue in the middle of the *Karlsplatz* to boogie to live music and perhaps catch a phone number.

The festival's most visual food booth is a replica red-and-white light house, where the fish is fried, flipped and flung from the top of the tower down a twisting chute arriving sizzling hot on a plate and served to the customer.

This and other surprises await any first-time visitor to Hamburg's traveling fish circus.

To Get There

The festival has no parking facilities,

so it's best to hop on the city train (take U-train 5 or 6 to the *Charlottenplatz* or *Schlossplatz* stops if coming from Kelley Barracks by bus 73 or 75). From Patch, take the S-train to either *Schlossplatz* or *Hauptbahnhof* exits.

For a complete list of train departure and arrival times visit www.reiseauskunft.bahn.de. For details about Stuttgart's night bus visit www.nachtaktiv.net.

For more about the festival visit www.stgt.com.



In Hamburg, the Fish Market opens every Sunday starting at 5 a.m. in the century-old Fish Auction Hall near the harbor. It's an unforgettable experience for any visitor who arrives in Germany's most famous port city.

OUT & ABOUT

UNESCO World Youth Festival

Stuttgart hosts the UNESCO World Youth Festival 2006 **July 2 to 10** in the Höhenpark Killesberg.

Youth from all continents will converge in the city for a cultural exchange highlighted by an open-air concert **July 7** with bands New Model Army, Die Happy, Massive Töne and Los Skalameros taking the stage.

Tickets for the concert cost 25 euro and may be purchased at www.easyticket.de.

For more information this festival visit www.youth2006.com.

Kids fest in Vaihingen

The *Vaihinger Kinderfest* (Kids Fest) will take place **July 8 to 9** starting at 10:30 in the plaza adjacent to the city hall in Vaihingen.

The festival will entice kids of all ages with a carousel, bouncing castle, food booths, face-painting tables and a children's flea market.

On Saturday, kids from the Patch School Age Services will perform songs and skits beginning at 1 p.m.

For soccer enthusiasts, the fest will offer a large-screen viewing area to watch the finals of the FIFA World Cup tournament which take place on Sunday at 9 p.m.

City festival in Riedlingen

The city of Riedlingen cordially invites members of the Stuttgart military community to its annual *Stadtfest* July 8 to 9 in the *Marktplatz*.

Hosted by the city's Carnival Association, festivities kick off at 4 p.m. on Saturday. The event also features live music by Time Square (jazz) and Blue Man (rock) starting at 8 p.m. Numerous food booths will be available throughout the festival grounds.

The fun resumes on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with traditional German brass band music and the Accordion Orchestra dazzling audiences at 2:30 p.m.

DAZ hosts lecturer

Dr. James McNaughton, a command historian at Headquarters, U.S. European Command, will deliver the lecture "You Get Your Hat and Go" **July 11**, 7:30 p.m.

The lecture explores the expulsion of NATO and American headquarters and military forces from France in March 1966. McNaughton will trace the impact of this historic event to the U.S. force structure in Europe today.

The center is located at Charlottenplatz 17 (U-Bahn 5 or 6). For a complete list of DAZ-sponsored activities visit www.daz.org.

International City Festival

Stuttgart hosts its inaugural *Stadtteilstfest* (International City Festival) **July 15**, 3 to 10 p.m., in the Zuffenhausen district.

The festival will feature rides, games and arts activities for the kids. Live music starts at 4:30 p.m., followed by DJ parties at 8 p.m.

Numerous booths will serve a variety of international dishes from Turkey, Italy and Russia. Bring plenty of euro to rummage through the trinkets at the fest's cultural flea market.

To get there take the U-train to the *Fürfelderstraße* stop. For more information visit www.stuttgart-rot.info.

Pro tennis comes to Stuttgart

The world's top tennis players slug it out for top honors at this year's Mercedes Cup **July 15 to 23** at the Tennisclub Weissenhof in Stuttgart.

Tickets range from 35 to 75 euro and may be purchased at www.mercedescup.de.

The tennis club is located at Parlerstraße 102.

Sean Paul plays Schleyerhalle

Dancehall-reggae star Sean Paul and his band play music from their new album, "The Trinity," **July 19, 7:30 p.m.**, in Stuttgart's Schleyerhalle

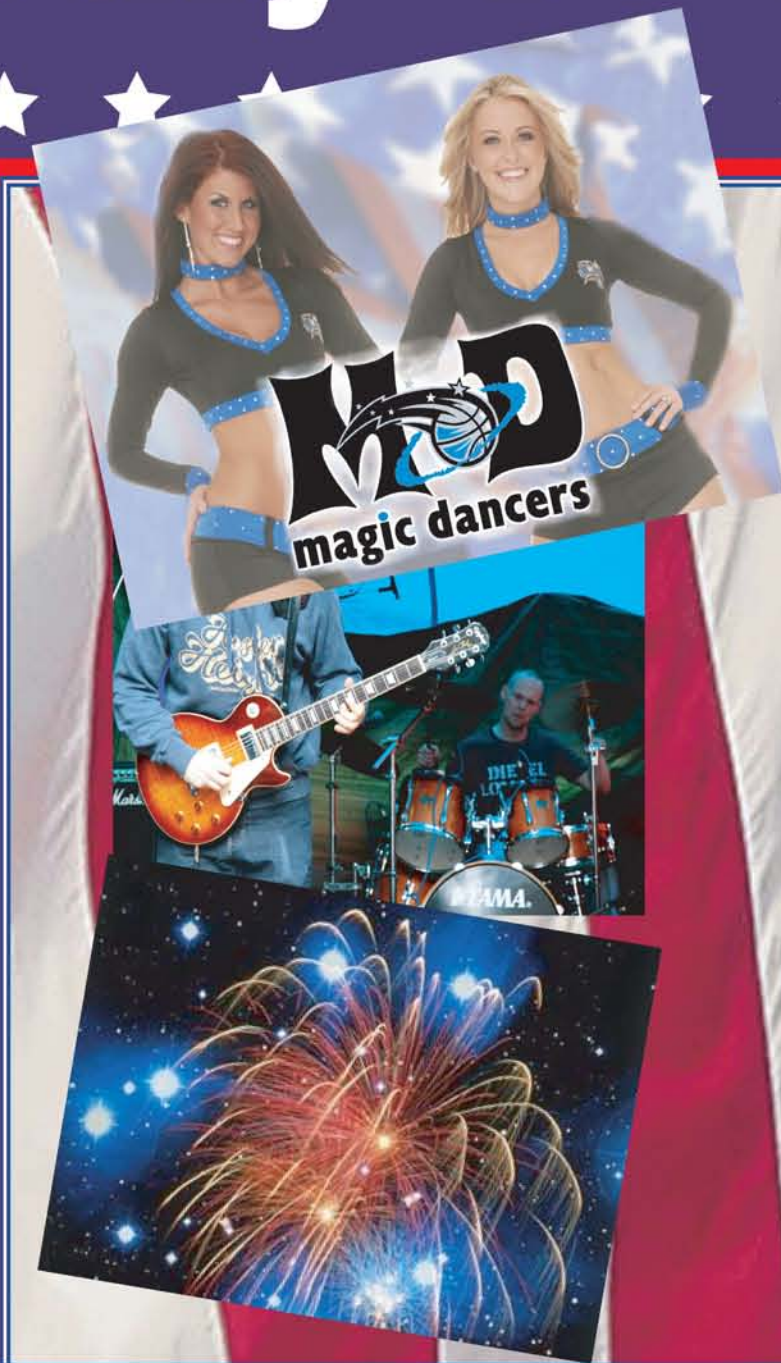
For more information visit www.schleyerhalle.de or call 0711-255-5555.

The hall is located at Mercedesstraße 69 (U-Bahn 11 to Gottlieb-Daimler Stadion).

Tickets cost 34 euro.

July 4th Celebration

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Husky Field ★



Activities throughout the day

Featuring Orlando Magic Dancers

Official Keg Tapping at 5 p.m.

Horseshoe Tournament

Craft Fair

Concession Stands

Live entertainment: "The Groove Factory" & "One Brick Shy"

CYS activities for kids of all ages

Fireworks!! after dark on Patch Barracks

AND MORE!!

 **Bring family, friends and your lawn chairs/blankets!**

***Drink responsibly**

